

Phoenix Water Supply – Boil Water Order and Food Service Requirements – January 25, 2005

Earlier today the City of Phoenix issued a Boil Water Order for the entire Water System supplied by the City.

This order affects the Health and Safety of all Eating and Drinking establishments including Retail Grocery, Schools, Nursing Homes, Processing Plants and Water Vending Operations.

The following items are required for a Food Establishment to remain in operation:

- Water for consumption and food preparation shall be boiled prior to being used. This includes ice machines, soda dispensers, coffee makers, dipper wells and other water carrying devices. Bottled water from an approved bottling facility may be used for drinking and food preparation.
- Water must be boiled at a rolling boil for a minimum of five (5) minutes
- No bare hand contact of any food items.
- Personal hygiene is a major issue because of the possible contamination of the water, the following steps are to be taken - washing hands with hot soapy water, applying a hand sanitizer or hand dip (chlorine water dip of 50 ppm), then glove your hands. This is for all food and food contact products.
- Highly recommend the usage of single service items, though low temperature dish machines with an approved sanitizer are adequate. High temperature machines can be used if followed by a 1 minute emersion of dishes at 50 – 100 ppm of chlorine in a sink. A three compartment dish washing procedure is also approved with an approved sanitizing step in the third compartment.
- Fruits and vegetables if requiring washing, shall be washed with bottled water or previously boiled water that has been cooled.
- A properly maintained reverse osmosis (RO) capable of reducing the turbidity and other contaminants which are verified to meet the State Drinking Water Standards and conform to the bottled drinking water standards is an alternative to boiling.

If an Establishment is not capable of meeting these standards, they must Close until the Boiled Water Order is removed by Maricopa County.

People with questions regarding the water situation can **call the City of Phoenix information line at 602-262-6251** for more information.

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